

small scale sector, which has made significant inroads in production of diversified jute products during recent years. Composite and moulded products have found new applications of jute and jute wastes. Jute geo-textile has established its suitability for application in drainage, soil erosion control, canal lining and stabilization roads.

(b) Does not arise.

Funds under Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations

2666. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee headed by the Prime Minister recommended allocation of funds for the development of SCs/STs proportionate to their population in the year 1993;

(b) if so, indicate the action taken thereon by the Ministry of Agriculture for procuring funds proportion to the population of SCs/STs for the above purpose during the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992—1997);

(c) if appropriate action is not taken, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of funds demanded by the Ministry for the said purpose, funds allocated and funds utilized during Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is primarily responsible for sustainable agriculture production. Through implementation of various schemes, the Department promotes agricultural development, supports soil and water conservation schemes towards agricultural expansion and consolidation, promotes expansion and strengthening of agricultural infrastructure. These activities benefit farmers of all categories including SC/ST. As the schemes are area specific and production oriented in nature, funds are not allocated on the basis of population of SC/ST. However,

wherever possible, Special Component Plan (SCP) for SCs and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) for STs and carved out of the annual plans.

Benefit of rebate on interest accrued on HBA to employees of M/O Agriculture

2667. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees in the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) are not given the benefit of rebate on the interest accrued on House Building Advance as provided under Section 192 (2B) of Income Tax Act while deducting tax at source by the person responsible for making payment (DDO); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken to be taken by the Ministry to ensure that this benefit is given to the employees working in the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir, they are being given the benefit. The benefit of rebate on the interest accrued on House Building Advance drawn by the employees of the Department from financial institutions such as HDFC, LIC, etc. is given to them under Section 192(2B) of the Income Tax Act at the time of deduction of tax at source by the Drawing and Disbursing Officer of the Department. This benefit is given to the employees on production of a certificate by them in this regard from the respective financial institution. In the case of House Building Advance drawn from the Government, the individual employee is given a certificate of accrual of interest on House Building Advance for enabling him to claim the same from Income Tax authorities by filing tax return.